



Marathon Petroleum Company LP

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Dear Chair Ecklund and members of the House Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House File 4177, as amended; specifically Article 7, "Refinery Safety." Marathon Petroleum opposes this "Refinery Safety" provision and questions its necessity. This legislation would not make refineries safer for the employees or the surrounding communities, and has the potential to move safety backwards. Additionally, this provision sets a precedent of the legislature mandating who private businesses can hire and reduces the refineries' abilities to choose the safest, most technically-advanced contractor to meet the needs of the facilities, regardless of apprenticeship status.

Marathon Petroleum Corporation, through its subsidiaries, owns and operates the 104,000 barrel-per-calendar-day refinery located in St. Paul Park, MN. St. Paul Park refinery's commitment to safety has been proven out in the data with zero recordable personal safety incidents in 2021. Additionally, the St. Paul Park Refinery has again been recognized by independent organizations including the Minnesota Safety Council Governor's Safety Award for the Award of Honor in Occupational Safety for 2021 performance and American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) Distinguished Safety Award, the highest safety honor and one of four refineries in the country with this distinction.

The safety of our employees, contractors, business partners, customers and the community is, and always will be, our number-one priority. Every day, the people who work at our plant do so with the highest commitment to safety and a vigilant focus on care for the environment. We want the refinery to be safe, and we want our communities to be safe. The St. Paul Park refinery has 400 employees and at times employs hundreds of contractors, many of whom live and work in the community. It is of the utmost importance to Marathon that each of these individuals goes home safely to their family after every shift.

This strong commitment to safety extends to the process we use when we select companies to provide contracted services. We award our contracts based on a comprehensive evaluation process, selecting companies that have exemplary safety records; demonstrate a strong health and safety culture for their employees and concern for our communities; practice sound environmental stewardship; and create value through innovative technology and craft specialization. Contractors must also meet all federal and state regulations, and are trained for their specific roles. To support this disciplined selection process, our contractors' health and safety programs and related scores (total recordable incident rate, OSHA logs, etc.) are vetted by an independent auditor prior to awarding business. Our rigorous selection process has resulted in qualified union-represented and non-represented contractors safely and successfully performing work at the refinery.

Our proven record of safety renders Article 7, "Refinery Safety," unnecessary. It not only limits the ability to hire the safest and specifically-trained contract companies, it also jeopardizes availability of workers to meet the demands of in-state refineries. The St. Paul Park refinery averages just under 150 contractors per day during normal time periods. During labor-intensive maintenance periods, such as turnarounds, that number has peaked at over 1,300 workers on site, depending on turnaround scope. It can be challenging to fill more



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specialized positions currently, and by shrinking the available labor pool through the limitations put forth in this provision, planned critical, mechanical integrity-driven maintenance may be delayed due to lack of available workforce and emergency maintenance may not be immediately available by a limited number of contract workers. This would not increase safety at refineries and would require many apprenticeship-trained workers to be brought in from out of state to meet demand.

Finally, there are certain highly skilled crafts that do not have apprenticeship-level training available, nor does apprenticeship-level training include industrial-specific training. In certain situations, the wide scope of this bill would require that refineries hire contractors with less specialized apprenticeship training over contractors that employ skilled craftsmen with decades of experience in a particular trade. This trade-off could result in the loss of hundreds of current jobs held by Minnesotans in and around our community. Additionally, trading skilled and experienced workers for those with potentially less training simply because they attended an apprenticeship program is an inherent safety risk.

We at Marathon Petroleum view the use of contractors at our facility as a true partnership, underscored by a strong commitment to safety from each party. We fully understand and appreciate the significant responsibility we have as an employer, a community member, and a provider of essential products that help ensure Minnesotans have the goods and services they need. We are committed to continuing to work with proponents of this bill to find ways to support partnership opportunities outside of the legislature that uphold the highest safety standards for our employees and contractors.

We urge the committee to remove the "Refinery Safety" provision from the House Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs omnibus bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment.